

ALLEN SHUFFLEBOARD NEW “AIR DISC”



Allen R. Shuffleboard Co. has been the leading manufacturer of shuffleboard equipment and shuffleboard supplies since 1941 and is the primary supplier of shuffleboard discs in Florida. Owner, Jim Allen has been trying to develop a new tournament shuffleboard disc that would be another option for the standard Arco tournament disc. It was discovered that the yellow composition used to produce the Arco disc is different than the black. This seems to cause the speed of the disc's to run inconsistently. As some tournament clubs found the need to purchase new sets of discs, they bought all yellow discs and painted half of them black so they would run the same. Betmar and Lakeland were two clubs locally that tried this approach. This seemed to work but because the paint was easily chipped or scraped off, it wasn't the best solution.

Recently, I spoke with Jim and asked him if he would comment on the progress of his new AIR DISC and he was kind enough to reply.....

“I have searched for years for a material that would play the same for both black and yellow. I have visited many factories and plants, and the problem always was that the black material was different than the yellow in every case.

Finally, when one vendor approached me with this new material, and it was available in both yellow and black, we decided to test it out. But then I thought....why just put it in the same mold as the old discs; why not design a disc to fit the characteristics of our sport? So I flew to Chicago to meet with the engineer and told him what we were looking for in a shuffleboard disc. He wanted the disc to stay lower and used the air flow to achieve that goal. He wanted the angle of the air to 'push' the disc down for a smoother ride. Since many who will use this disc use beads, he also wanted a bit more radius on the edge. And most importantly, he wanted more of the weight in the middle - hence the larger center.

This is how the AIR DISC came into existence, and judging from the response of many players, I believe it is here to stay. Of course there are some differences -- many players tell us when 2 AIR DISCS hit each other they react differently than current discs. I am sure that is true, since it is a totally new material. And since the material is denser, they use less wax. It will be a learning curve this coming year no doubt!

Should the AIR DISC continue to be a success it can also be offered in other colors. Currently we offer only black, yellow and blue,” Jim said.

The new AIR DISC will be used this coming tournament season in both the Lakeland and Bradenton clubs. They have been used exclusively in Lakeland this summer in the Central District Mingles/Singles series and have been met with general approval and acceptance by most players according to Glenn Monroe. Glenn expressed the Club is “very happy with them.”

Jim stated, “This is the first year for tournament play --- the discs have been tested for 2 years now, but this is the first real tournament year so I think it’s prudent to sit back and see how the players respond. I am not in a hurry...I plan on selling discs for the next 20 years! The rumor that we are not carrying the ARCO disc is incorrect. It’s just that we plan on carrying two tournament discs, that's all.”

Our club has one set on hand for our members to try. They were “seasoned” by Mel Elgersma and definitely run quite a bit faster than our older version Arco discs. Most like the “feel” of the block but all agree they will need to get use to them.

Jim detailed that the new AIR DISC not only needs to run well on our “rough” courts, but on smooth, roll out and poly plastic courts as well.

My thanks to Jim Allen for the update and we all wish you success in this endeavor.

Chuck Moulton